



# Bridgeport Child Advocacy Coalition

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*Mobilizing for Children*

February 8, 2011

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Select Committee on Children

Room 011, Capitol Building

Hartford, CT 06106

**RE: Public Hearing on HB 5293, "An Act Extending the Care 4 Kids Program to families with a parent who is actively seeking employment."**

Dear Senator Musto, Representative Urban, Representative Fawcett and members of the Select Committee on Children:

I am writing on behalf of the Bridgeport Child Advocacy Coalition, an alliance of 80 organizations, parents and concerned individuals who are committed to improving the well-being of children and families through research, advocacy, and community education. We support **HB 5293, "An Act Extending the Care 4 Kids Program to families with a parent who is actively seeking employment."**

The past two years have been difficult for many Bridgeport families, as well as the residents in our neighboring towns who did not anticipate a loss of a job or a decline in income. Economists predict that unemployment could remain high for the next 12 months or longer. Making it through this recession means patching together a number of supports from state and federal government. One of those vital services is childcare subsidies for parents who are working or actively involved in job searches. In the current economy, it can take months of aggressively searching to obtain another job. Without subsidized childcare, it is difficult for parents to look for work and go on interviews. In addition, early education programs offer a stable environment for a child especially during times of family crisis, like the loss of a job. Research demonstrates that children who participate in quality early education programs do better academically than their peers who do not participate.

At BCAC, we believe that we must spend smart to build Connecticut's future. We must invest in children and families while putting people to work. We believe that House Bill SB 5293 is a smart investment and we urge passage of this legislation. Please include this letter into the public testimony on HB 5293.

Sincerely,

Mary Pat Healy  
Executive Director

Mary Pat C. Healy

*Executive Director*

Cc: Elizabeth Giannaros, Clerk for the Select Committee on Children